

From: Haurwitz, Ralph (CMG-Austin)
To: [Gray, David](#)
Cc: [Press](#)
Subject: Re: EPA Harvey
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 1:09:51 PM

Thanks, David. I appreciate the overview. However, I am interested in some additional details, as my note to Jennah indicated. What can you tell me about the status of the Arkema plant, the air emissions from the petrochemical complex along the Texas Gulf Coast and the threat that ordinary people might be facing from polluted floodwaters? I'd also be interested in the name and location of the Superfund sites you mentioned. Could you perhaps make the regional administrator or someone else available for a brief interview?

Thanks much.

Ralph

On Aug 30, 2017, at 12:11 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Ralph,
Here is our latest update.
David

EPA has an organized emergency response program and is positioned to support FEMA, state, local and tribal partners. EPA Headquarters' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated and Administrator Pruitt is in regular contact with EPA staff across the Agency who are part of this hurricane response effort. Helping manage response efforts and focusing on the safety of those affected are our highest priorities.

As of today, EPA has activated the National Incident Management Team (N-IMAT) consisting of highly skilled response personnel from Regions 3, 4, and 5. The N-IMAT arrived in Dallas this morning to assist with response activities.

EPA has two On-Scene Coordinators co-located with FEMA in Denton and another at the State Operation Center in Austin to expedite federal and state coordination during the response.

EPA, TCEQ, Texas General Land Office (TGLO) and US Coast Guard are operating in Unified Command. The Unified Command will have seven teams in the field conducting reconnaissance.

Two National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund sites near Corpus Christi will be inspected today to assess impacts from the hurricane.

EPA continues to support TCEQ in contacting drinking water and waste water systems and will visit two systems based on information garnered.

In addition, EPA's aerial assessment aircraft will conduct aerial reconnaissance over

the impacted area, as weather permits.

From: Haurwitz, Ralph (CMG-Austin) [<mailto:rhaurwitz@statesman.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 9:57 AM

To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Subject: harvey impacts, threats

Jennah,

Good to speak with you a moment ago. I'm interested in EPA's response and concerns regarding Hurricane Harvey generally and on a few specific points.

Which industrial plants are you most concerned about? I understand the Arkema plant in Crosby is a particular concern. Could you explain what the issue is, the potential for fire/explosion or whatever, how you're monitoring the situation and so forth? I heard you might have sent a plane over there to check things out — true?

Also, the petrochemical complex on the Texas Gulf Coast is huge (largest in U.S.?) and I'm interested in your observations about its status and any specific concerns there. Do you have any data on how much in the way of air pollution has happened in connection with plant shutdowns, which apparently causes releases?

Water, water everywhere. And it's polluted with oil, grease, gasoline, fertilizer, paint, you name it. Perhaps you could characterize the scale of this — unprecedented in U.S. history? This seems to be the most immediate hazard for the largest number of people, no?

Thanks much.

Ralph

Ralph K.M. Haurwitz

Reporter / Austin American-Statesman

305 S. Congress Ave., Austin TX 78704

o 512.445.3604 m 512-762-7825 f 512-445-1736

e rhaurwitz@statesman.com

Twitter: [@ralphhaurwitz](https://twitter.com/ralphhaurwitz)

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